

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07716 300642Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----108746 300643Z /14

R 300354Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4303
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7716

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PK IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN VIEWS OF PAKISTAN

REF ISLAMABAD 8778

1. SHAH HAS DISCUSSED WITH ME IN A CURSORY WAY HIS MOTIVES
IN OFFERING SUPPORT TO BHUTTO. HE SAID THAT HE HAS NO GREAT
AFFECTION FOR BHUTTO PERSONALLY AND NO ILLUSIONS THAT BHUTTO
CAN BE RESTORED TO HIS FORMER POSITION OF PARAMOUNTCY. ON
THE OTHER HAND, HE VIEWS ALL THE ALTERNATIVES MUCH MORE DIMLY.

2. HE FEELS THAT A PNA VICTORY WOULD PAVE THE WAY TOWARDS
"DISINTEGRATION". HE BELIEVES THE CURRENT COALITION IS HELD
TOGETHER ONLY BY ITS ANTAGONISM TO BHUTTO. IF THEY WERE TO
WIN, HE FEELS THEY WOULD SOON FALL APART AND PRODUCE A NEW
NADIR OF CHAOS.

3. AMONG HIS OTHER CONCERNS ABOUT A PNA VICTORY WOULD BE
THE EFFECT OF THE MOSLEM RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS UPON IRANIAN
MOSLEM GROUPS, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER EFFECTIVE SECULAR

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CONTROL. A RETURN TO STRICT ISLAMIC PRACTICES IN
NEIGHBORING PAKISTAN COULD LAP OVER INTO THE EASTERN REGIONS
OF IRAN.

4. MANY OF THESE SAME THEMES WERE LABORATED UPON AUGUST 28
IN CALL WHICH UNDER SECRETARY BENSON MADE ON ACTING FOREIGN
MINISTER ZELLI, WHO WAS UNTIL RECENTLY IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO

PAKISTAN. ZELLI GAVE IT AS HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT MLA WOULD CARRY THROUGH ON ITS UNDERTAKING TO HOLD ELECTIONS AND THAT, THEREFORE, ONLY CHOICES WERE BETWEEN BHUTTO AND THE FISSIPAROUS PNA.

5. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, ZELLI TOTALLY DISCOUNTED ANY IMMEDIATE CONCERN ABOUT THE BALUCHI REGION, ON EITHER SIDE OF THE FRONTIER. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THINGS WERE CALM IN THAT REGION AND WOULD REMAIN SO NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID IRANIAN CONCERNS ABOUT BALUCHIS WERE IN THE LONGER TERM AND RELATED TO THEIR "UNDERDEVELOPMENT". HE TICKED OFF IRANIAN AID TO VARIOUS PROJECTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER DESIGNED TO "MODERNIZE" THE BALUCHIS AND BRING THEM CLOSER INTO HARMONY WITH THE ECONOMY DEVELOPING AROUND THEM.

6. AS FOR AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S QUESTION ABOUT ATTEMPTING TO DISSUADE THE SHAH FROM FINAGLING IN THE ELECTION, I AGREE WITH HIS CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE USELESS. HE DOES NOT PERSONALLY SEEM ALL THAT DEDICATED TO HIS SUCCESS. IN DISCUSSING HIS PREDILECTIONS WITH ME HE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND SAID HIS SUPPORT WOULD PROBABLY BE OF NO CONSEQUENCE. "AFTER ALL," HE SMILED, "I ALSO PUT UP MONEY TO SUPPORT INDIRA GANDHI."
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN07716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770312-1076
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977086/aaaaaeto.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7415635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 8778
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1596222
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN VIEWS OF PAKISTAN
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PK, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7415635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009